

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE II-6

LOS ANGELES TIMES
16 November 1983

Reassessing Policy on Gays

The time has come for the federal government to reassess its out-of-date policy against granting security clearances to homosexuals. The case that could have been made in the past that homosexuals might be more easily blackmailed into betraying government secrets to avoid being publicly identified has been undermined by the openness of many homosexuals and the tolerance developing in the society around them.

The injustice in the government policy was never more apparent than in the case of John W. Green, who says that he never hid his sexual preference and yet held a special clearance while managing a top-secret project at TRW Inc. until 1981. He lost

the clearance after 10 years when government investigators discovered his homosexuality during a background check on another TRW employee.

The federal government banned homosexuals from many jobs in the early 1950s. Policies have been changed—or tossed out by courts—in most areas except the military and national security. Green's case illustrates the problem with any assumptions about a person's vulnerability because of his or her sex life, no matter its orientation. It is time for the government to drop a prohibition that is no longer valid, and to evaluate potential security risks on an individual basis rather than on a stereotype that is now outdated.